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Attorney Docket No. 99P7454

B1
a controller for identifying which of said one or more messages are threaded within said others.

B2
9. (Amended) A method for operating a messaging system, comprising:
storing one or more first messages;
storing one or more second messages, at least one of said one or more first messages being threaded within said one or more second messages, wherein at least a portion of said one or more first messages is included within said one or more second messages; and
identifying to a user which of said one or more messages are threaded within said others.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention.

Claims 1, 2, 8-10, and 16-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Beck et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,167,395 ("Beck"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single prior reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Beck. As described in the Specification, one aspect of the present invention relates to handling of threaded messages. As described therein, messages may be "threaded" when forwarded with attached materials, i.e., when a portion of a previous message is included within a succeeding message. For example, a voice message or e-mail message may be forwarded (or replied-to) with additional comments. Thus, a first message is contained within the second message. Thus, claim 1 has been amended to recite "wherein a threaded message includes at least a portion of another message;" and claim 9 has been amended to recite "wherein at least a portion of said one or more first messages is included within said one or more second messages."

In contrast, Beck does not appear to have anything to do with threaded

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messages, as generally recited in the claims at issue. More particularly, as discussed in response to the previous Official Action, Beck relates to extracting information and, particularly, text, from call center communications or dialogs for a knowledge base. Beck does not appear, however, to use "thread" as recited in the claims at issue. As described in the present invention, threading occurs when one message in a chain is contained within another. This can lead to sorting and redundancy problems solved by embodiments of the present invention. In contrast, "threading" as used in Beck refers only to the chain itself and is not concerned with the embedding. That is, as used in Beck, a "dialog thread" appears to relate merely to particular sequences of communications, which are stored and have relevant data extracted therefrom. For example, at Column 4, lines 8-10, Beck states that "[I]t is desirable that threaded dialogs of such interactions be created and made available in a contact history...". Thus, the "threading" of Beck does not appear to relate to embedding messages, or in general as "threading" is used in the claims at issue. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims.

Claims 3-7, and 11-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Beck in view of Hicks, U.S. Patent No. 6,304,573 B1 ("Hicks"). Applicants respectfully submit that there are elements of the claimed invention that are not taught, suggested or implied by Beck or Hicks, either singly or in combination. Beck has been discussed above. Hicks relates merely to storing voice messages. Thus, like Beck, Hicks also fails to teach, suggest or imply threading or identifying threading as generally recited in the claims at issue. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims.

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For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

SIEMENS CORPORATION

By: 

David D. Chung
Registration No. 38,409
Attorney for Applicants
Tel: 650-694-5339
Fax: 650-968-4517

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SIEMENS CORPORATION
Intellectual Property Department
186 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830
ATTENTION: Elsa Keller, Legal Department
Telephone: (732) 321-3026

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MARKED UP CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A messaging system, comprising:
a memory for storing one or more messages, wherein some of said one or more messages are threaded within others of said one or more messages, wherein a threaded message includes at least a portion of another message; and

a controller for identifying which of said one or more messages are threaded within said others.

9. (Amended) A method for operating a messaging system, comprising:

storing one or more first messages;

storing one or more second messages, at least one of said one or more first messages being threaded within said one or more second messages, wherein at least a portion of said one or more first messages is included within said one or more second messages; and

identifying to a user which of said one or more messages are threaded within said others.